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MANCHESTER, N. H.

Annual Report
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Complete
SELECTMEN AND TREASURER

OF THE

TOWN OF CHESTER,

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH, 1880.

MANCHESTER, N. H.:

PRINTED BY JOHN B. CLARKE.

1880.

PIKE & HEALD,

Manufacturers of and Dealers in

STOVES, FURNACES AND RANGES,

GAS AND WATER PIPING,

PLUMBING,

Jobbing in Tin, Sheet Iron, Copper, Etc.

Farmer's Boilers, Caldron Kettles and Kitchen Furnishing Goods constantly on hand.

All kinds of work in our line done with

EXCELLENCE AND DISPATCH.

We employ skilled workmen; use the best quality of material, and charge prices which are

DOWN TO HARD PAN.

We keep constantly on hand

A Fine and Extensive Assortment of Goods.

Call and examine. Remember the place,

972 Elm Street.

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Manchester, N. H.

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TOWN OF CHESTER.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1879.

Moderator. — SILAS F. LEARNARD.

Town Clerk. — CYRUS F. MARSTON.

Representative. — JAMES F. BROWN.

Selectmen. — CHARLES CHASE, GEORGE W. WILCOMB,
MOSES WEBSTER.

Superintending School-Committee. — CHARLES A. WILCOMB.

Treasurer. — JOHN W. NOYES.

Collector. — SILAS F. LEARNARD.

Auditors. — SAMUEL S. PARKER, GEORGE W. DOLBER,
CYRUS F. MARSTON.

Supervisors. — JOHN W. NOYES, EDMUND SLEEPER,
ANDERSON HOLMAN.

The taxes assessed for the year 1879 are as follows: —

State tax	\$1,124 00
County tax	1,510 64
School tax required by law	983 50
School-house tax, District No. 4	448 80
Town tax	1,500 00
Non-resident highway tax	109 99
Tax on dogs	73 00
Per cent added	55 82
	<hr/> \$5,805 75

The Selectmen charge themselves with orders drawn on the Treasurer for the following purposes, amounting to \$5,846.89: —

SCHOOL MONEY.

District No. 1,	N. B. Goldsmith .	\$277 85	
2,	William C. Ela .	154 62	
3,	William H. Under-		
	hill	169 00	
4,	Daniel S. West .	65 94	
5,	M. L. Butterfield .	55 66	
6,	George W. Currier	56 53	
7,	Luther C. Stevens .	81 10	
8,	Charles F. True .	86 22	
9,	Lewis Sanborn .	60 75	
10,	George A. Cammett	40 02	
1, in	Auburn, Enoch		
	Watson . . .	16 84	
		<hr/>	\$1,064 53

Amount of school money raised by			
tax	\$983 50		
Literary fund	81 03		
	<hr/>		\$1,064 53

SCHOOL-HOUSE TAX.

District No. 4	\$437 00	
	<hr/>	\$437 00

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

State tax	\$1,124 00	
County tax	1,510 64	
	<hr/>	\$2,634 64

IMPROVEMENTS IN HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Charles N. Fitz, bill post and rails .	\$4 17	
Charles S. Wilcomb, plank and		
stringers	3 89	
Lewis Kimball, one stringer . . .	75	
Seth D. Lane, for rails and plank,		
and labor on bridge	4 20	
William C. Ela, for post and rails .	7 50	
	<hr/>	\$20 51

BREAKING ROADS.

Charles N. Fitz	\$19 24	
Joseph L. Small	10 20	
David E. Richardson, for 1877 .	2 25	
Daniel S. West	2 87	
Asa Wilson	5 18	
Daniel Sanborn	11 40	
John West	1 55	
W. P. W. Whittemore	20 25	
Charles Pressey	6 72	
M. L. Butterfield	8 25	
B. F. Spofford	7 62	
George W. Clark	4 25	
Seth D. Lane	9 25	
Albert Knippee	1 40	
Lewis Kimball	5 62	
J. A. Hook	2 90	
William C. Ela	20 70	
Charles H. Edwards	1 25	
Josiah H. Adams	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$142 40

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX WORKED.

S. F. Learnard and others . . .	\$109 19	
	<hr/>	\$109 19

TOWN-HALL EXPENSES.

Clark B. Hall, for shingling town hall	\$13 00	
Charles A. Wilcomb, for zinc and nails	2 00	
F. Griffin, for warming town hall .	2 50	
	<hr/>	\$17 50

CEMETERY.

Charles H. Kent, care of cemetery,	\$4 00	
Henry Moore, one shovel . . .	1 00	
Aaron F. Keyes, for receiving-tomb,	250 00	
	<hr/>	\$255 00

SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS.

Daniel Sanborn	\$4 00	
Abbie A. Morse	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$8 00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES ON JOHN N. HAZELTON'S
LIST OF 1873.

John H. Cunningham, left town .	\$1 75	
William H. Fellows, left town .	16 71	
Franklin A. Morse	1 75	
Samuel V. Osgood, left town .	2 01	
Isaiah Sanborn, left town . .	2 75	
Madison M. Sanborn, left town .	2 01	
Nathaniel H. Currier, left town .	1 75	
Reuben H. Mitchell, left town .	1 75	
Joseph L. Small	8 34	
	<hr/>	\$38 82

ABATEMENT OF DOG TAX.

Charles G. McDuffee, dog died .	\$1 00	
Charles E. Smith, dog died . .	2 00	
Charles F. True, dog died . . .	1 00	
Charles H. Kent, dog died . . .	1 00	
John C. Morse, dog died 1878 .	1 00	
Asa Wilson, dog died	2 00	
William P. Underhill, dog died .	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$9 00

ABATEMENT OF TAX ON J. N. HAZELTON'S LIST,
1874.

John H. Cunningham, left town .	\$2 22	
George W. Cunningham, left town,	2 22	
Samuel Dolloff, left town . . .	2 22	
William H. Fellows, left town .	4 34	
George H. McDuffee, left town .	1 19	
J. Simpson Pike, left town . . .	2 22	
Franklin A. Morse	1 61	
George B. Sanders	10 89	
Charles Warren, died	2 22	
Lucy R. Warren, died	13 21	

William Thompson, left town . . .	2 22
George J. Chase, left town . . .	1 86
John Johnson, left town . . .	1 61
Edwin E. Nichols, left town . . .	1 61
Oscar Abbott, left town . . .	2 61
Huntress Spofford, left town . . .	1 61
Charles Simpson, left town . . .	4 83
Henry Small, left town . . .	1 61
David Morrison, disabled . . .	1 61
Lauren S. Wason, not old enough, . . .	1 61
William F. Fellows, left town . . .	2 22

\$65 74

ABATEMENT OF TAX ON 1878. LIST.

William H. Cook, left town . . .	\$1 30
John H. Cunningham, left town . . .	1 30
Lewis Garner, left town . . .	1 30
Hazen Mills, over 70 . . .	1 30
John E. Parker, left town . . .	1 30
Richard G. Smith, left town . . .	1 30
Albert N. Wise, left town . . .	1 30
Gershon C. Freeman, left town . . .	1 30
Fred Hayes, left town . . .	1 30
Leonard G. Spaulding, left town . . .	2 00
James C. Whittemore, left town . . .	1 30
Charles L. Drown, left town . . .	1 42
Humphrey Niles, left town . . .	1 30
Andrew McGarret, left town . . .	1 30
Charles M. Stevens, left town . . .	1 30
George N. Davis, left town . . .	52
Charles H. Knights, left town . . .	1 30
John La Bonty, left town . . .	1 30
Cleaveland C. Beard, left town . . .	2 47
A. F. B. Edwards, horse died . . .	78
Wm. P. Underhill, ox and cow died, . . .	90

\$27 59

ABATEMENT OF TAX, 1879.

George L. Brown, died	\$1 25	
C. F. and G. E. Hills, wrong taxed,	6 40	
N. B. Couch, wrong taxed . . .	37 37	
Joseph La Branch, wrong taxed,		
1877 and 1878	5 10	
Samuel Blackstone, wrong taxed .	1 25	
Frank Duley, left town	1 25	
E. L. Wright, over 70	1 25	
William C. Chase, paid in Mass. .	1 25	
William Cook, house burned . . .	2 50	
	<hr/>	\$57 62

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Charles A. Wilcomb	\$40 00	
	<hr/>	\$40 00

TOWN TREASURER.

John W. Noyes	\$25 00	
	<hr/>	\$25 00

TOWN CLERK.

Cyrus F. Marston	\$15 00	
	<hr/>	\$15 00

POLICE SERVICES.

Josiah D. Morse	\$6 00	
	<hr/>	\$6 00

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Dr. Lafayette Chesley	\$3 50	
	<hr/>	\$3 50

WATERING-TROUGH.

Mrs. Lydia Carr, for privilege of laying pipe and repairing . . .	\$10 00	
Aaron F. Keyes, for trough . . .	11 00	
Moses Webster, for labor . . .	24 07	
Moses Webster, for pipe . . .	12 56	
	<hr/>	\$57 63
John S. Emery, for watering-trough, 18-8 and 1879	\$3 00	
	<hr/>	\$3 00

SURVEYING SCHOOL-DISTRICT LINES.

John P. Young	\$17 50	
	<hr/>	\$17 50

BOUNTY ON FOXES AND HAWKS.

G. W. Wilcomb, two foxes and fifteen hawks	\$4 00	
Charles Chase, one fox and two hawks	90	
	<hr/>	\$4 90

PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

John B. Clarke, printing town reports, . . .	\$26 25	
Temple & Farrington, invoice book, . . .	7 50	
Surveyors, books and stationery . . .	3 43	
Charles Chase, for stationery and postage stamps	2 00	
S. S. Parker, for getting town reports printed and paying expenses . . .	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$42 18

TOWN FARM.

Joseph Johnson, for 16 M. shingles, . . .	\$36 00	
Cash paid for repairs	40 88	
	<hr/>	\$76 88

FIREWARDS.

Lane & Wilcomb's bill . . .	\$3 85	
Clement A. West's bill . . .	10 10	
	<hr/>	\$13 95

REAL ESTATE BOUGHT AT COLLECTOR'S SALE
FOR TAXES.

David E. Richardson . . .	\$24 12	
Simon Hazelton . . .	13 89	
David C. French . . .	12 03	
George W. French . . .	6 78	
James A. Raymond . . .	9 58	
	<hr/>	\$66 40

OVERSEER OF POOR.

Ostineller Robie, for support of So- phie D. Wilcomb from March 11 to April 29, 1879 . . .	\$8 75	
Extra expenses during her last sick- ness . . .	75	
J. M. Young, coffin for Sophie Wil- comb . . .	7 00	
	<hr/>	\$16 50
Daniel S. West, for support of Geo. H. McDuffee from June 11 to Aug. 21, 1879 . . .	\$25 00	
Dr. J. F. Brown, medical attend- ance to George H. McDuffee . . .	23 00	
	<hr/>	\$48 00
Dr. J. F. Brown, for taking George H. Duffee to Soldiers' Home . . .	\$5 00	
	<hr/>	\$5 00
Lane & Wilcomb, for goods fur- nished Joseph Johnson . . .	\$12 00	
	<hr/>	\$12 00
Frank P. Brown, for goods furnished Hannah L. Currier from Feb. 21, 1879, to Jan. 18, 1880 . . .	\$61 11	
	<hr/>	\$61 11

Samuel A. Blackstone, for boarding the family of Joseph Johnson three days	\$5 00	
	<hr/>	\$5 00
Franklin A. Morse, for support of Edmund K. Morse from Nov. 24, 1879, to Feb. 16, 1880 . . .	\$12 00	
	<hr/>	\$12 00
Lafayette Chesley, medical attend- ance on Sophia Wilcomb . . .	\$8 00	
Lafayette Chesley, medical attend- ance on Mrs. Charles E. Morse .	8 00	
	<hr/>	\$16 00
George W. Wilcomb, services and expenses as overseer of the poor	\$9 97	
	<hr/>	\$9 97

DISCOUNT ON TAXES.

S. F. Learnard, discount of four per cent	\$100 50	
	<hr/>	\$100 50

COLLECTING TAXES.

Paid S. F. Learnard for 1878 . . .	\$23 95	
S. F. Learnard in part for 1879,	61 50	
J. N. Hazelton for 1875	26 76	
	<hr/>	\$112 21

SUPERVISORS.

J. W. Noyes	\$6 00	
Edmund Sleeper	3 00	
Anderson Holman	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$12 00

SELECTMEN'S SERVICES.

Charles Chase	\$65 75	
George W. Wilcomb	36 25	
Moses Webster	38 87	
	<hr/>	\$140 87

SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES.

Charles Chase	\$12 00	
George W. Wilcomb	8 00	
Moses Webster	8 25	
	<hr/>	\$28 25

AUDITORS' SERVICES.

Samuel S. Parker	\$2 00	
George W. Dolber	2 00	
Cyrus F. Marston	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$6 00

AUDITORS' AND SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES.

George W. Wilcomb's bill	\$2 00	
	<hr/>	\$2 00
Total		<hr/> \$5,846 89

CHARLES CHASE,
 GEORGE W. WILCOMB,
 MOSES WEBSTER,
Selectmen of Chester.

CHESTER, N. H., February 14, 1880.

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the Selectmen's and Overseer of the Poor's accounts for the past year, and find the same correctly cast, with proper vouchers for the several charges.

S. S. PARKER,
 GEORGE W. DOLBER,
 CYRUS F. MARSTON,
Auditors.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

DR.

THE TOWN OF CHESTER IN ACCOUNT

1879.		
To cash paid for printing and stationery.....	\$42 18	
non-resident taxes worked out.....	109 19	
care of cemetery and hearse and expenses.....	5 00	
breaking roads.....	142 40	
improvements on roads and bridges.....	20 51	
state tax.....	1,124 00	
county tax.....	1,510 64	
sheep killed by dogs.....	8 00	
collecting taxes, balance of 1875, balance of 1878, and in part for 1879.....	112 21	
discount on taxes paid before August 1.....	100 50	
bounty for foxes and hawks.....	4 90	
returns of births and deaths.....	3 50	
superintending school committee.....	40 00	
town treasurer's services.....	25 00	
town clerk's services.....	15 00	
police service.....	6 00	
school-money to districts.....	1,064 53	
school-house tax in district No. 4.....	437 00	
repairing and warming town hall.....	17 50	
overseer of poor, services and expenses.....	9 97	
support of poor.....	175 61	
selectmen's services.....	140 87	
selectmen's expenses.....	28 25	
abatement of taxes on lists of 1873, 1874, 1878 and 1879.....	189 77	
town debt, notes taken up.....	309 07	
town debt, on notes now outstanding.....	421 60	
supervisors' services.....	12 00	
auditors' services.....	6 00	
receiving-tomb.....	250 00	
expense of new stone watering-trough.....	57 63	
abatement of dog tax.....	9 00	
maintaining watering-trough, 1878 and 1879.....	3 00	
claims on real estate sold at auction for taxes, and bought in by selectmen.....	66 40	
repairs on town-farm building.....	76 88	
surveying school-district lines.....	17 50	
expenditures by firewards.....	13 95	
auditors' and selectmen's expenses.....	2 00	
Balance in the hands of the treasurer.....	1,045 98	
		\$7,623 54

WITH JOHN W. NOYES, TOWN TREASURER.

CR.

1879.			
March	15.	By balance in the treasury on settlement February 22, 1879.....	\$271 34
"	15.	By cash of J. N. Hazelton on tax-list of 1875.....	125 02
"	20.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	500 00
April	12.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
"	17.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
May	13.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
"	27.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	200 00
June	5.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
"	9.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
July	1.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	200 00
"	23.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	1,000 00
Aug.	2.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	1,312 61
"	25.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	100 00
Sept.	29.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
"	29.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	100 00
Nov.	19.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1878.....	100 00
Dec.	8.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	1,000 00
"	16.	state treasurer, railroad tax.....	59 23
"	16.	state treasurer, savings-bank tax.....	531 85
"	16.	state treasurer, literary fund.....	86 58
"	26.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	200 00
1880.			
Feb.	7.	F. Griffin for rent of town hall.....	8 50
"	9.	S. F. Larnard, balance on tax-list of 1878.....	314 89
"	9.	S. F. Larnard, interest collected on tax-list of 1878...	29 59
"	9.	S. F. Larnard on tax-list of 1879.....	450 00
"	10.	Moses Webster, net income from town farm.....	181 67
"	13.	J. N. Hazelton, balance of tax-list of 1873.....	56 75
"	13.	J. N. Hazelton on tax-list of 1874.....	143 28
"	13.	J. N. Hazelton on tax-list of 1875.....	19 46
"	13.	J. N. Hazelton, interest on tax-lists of 1874 and 1875..	41 77
			<hr/>
			\$7,623 54

JOHN W. NOYES, *Town Treasurer.*

CHESTER, February 14, 1880.

STATEMENT.

The town owes notes as follows, all on interest at four per cent per annum, interest cast to March 1, 1880 : —

1878.

Jan. 12.	Sarah E. Pratt . . .	\$1,737 10
12.	Susan J. Mullett . . .	752 75
Feb. 1.	Ephraim Nichols . . .	1,085 20
1.	Frederick Wason . . .	1,193 72
1.	Lydia Carr . . .	628 00
1.	Betsey Pressey . . .	108 51
1.	Daty Ann Morse . . .	315 74
1.	Martha W. Webster . . .	217 05
1.	Moses Webster . . .	1,085 20
1.	Jonathan Pressey . . .	813 90
1.	Sarah Shaw . . .	813 90
1.	Sarah A. Morse . . .	973 91
1.	Joseph Webster . . .	705 30
1.	Elizabeth K. Cheswell . . .	502 43
15.	Daniel Sanborn . . .	1,083 40
15.	William P. Underhill . . .	477 49
April 1.	James Marden . . .	155 54
10.	Mary Butterfield . . .	215 39
May 15.	Joseph J. Brown . . .	309 58
July 1.	James D. Lane . . .	308 26
1.	John Lane . . .	102 75
1.	David Currier . . .	162 21
Nov. 23.	Lydia Towle . . .	115 64
29.	Lauren Wason . . .	420 16

1879.

Jan. 9.	George M. Clark . . .	104 59
15.	Martha A. Hatch . . .	209 04
19.	Ebenezer Marden . . .	401 82
19.	Lavinia J. Wason . . .	146 25
19.	John Wason, 2d . . .	114 92
Feb. 1.	Charles H. Knowles . . .	208 70

Feb. 4.	Julia A. Sanborn . . .	166 87	
5.	Matilda S. True . . .	124 18	
10.	Ella E Webster . . .	116 03	
10.	Matilda S. True . . .	125 83	
17.	Mary Sanborn . . .	291 61	
		<hr/>	\$16,292 97

From which deduct:—

Cash in Treasurer's hands . . .	\$1,045 98	
Balance due on J. N. Hazelton, tax-list of 1874	98 28	
Balance due on J. N. Hazelton, tax-list of 1875	189 54	
Balance due on S. F. Larnard, tax- list of 1879	1,443 14	
Balance due from the United States	895 00	
The town farm	2,278 82	
Claims on real estate sold for taxes and bought by Selectmen	66 40	
	<hr/>	\$6,017 16

Balance against the town \$10,275 81

Balance against the town reduced the past year \$269 82

JOHN W. NOYES, *Treasurer.*

CHESTER, February 14, 1880.

CHESTER, February 14, 1880.

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the Town Treasurer's accounts for the past year, and find the same correctly cast and well vouched.

S. S. PARKER,
GEORGE W. DOLBER,
CYRUS F. MARSTON,

Auditors.

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the citizens of Chester, the following is submitted :—

DISTRICT No. 1. Money, \$277.85.

N. B. GOLDSMITH, Prudential Committee.

Three terms: spring, 10 weeks; summer, 10 weeks; winter, 11 weeks. Teacher, Miss Addie M. Greeley of Londonderry, N. H.

This was Miss Greeley's second year of labor in this district, and no teacher, for the last twenty years at least, has taught so many successive terms, which fact of itself ought to be a sufficient approval of her work. With a very few natural exceptions the whole district have been well pleased with her labor. We judge of things by comparison; and a careful examination warrants me in saying this school is in better trim than for many years, owing in a great measure to the employment of the same teacher for a succession of terms.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 72. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 0.

DISTRICT No. 2. Money, \$154.62.

J. G. HALL, WILLIAM ELA, JAMES SHIRLEY, Prudential Committee.

Two terms: spring, 9 weeks; fall, 13 weeks. Teacher, Miss Nellie M. Moore of Derry, N. H.

Miss Moore having taught in this district previously, her

re-engagement was a testimonial of appreciation and esteem. An unusual degree of respect for the teacher was manifest, which is always a guarantee of good order and marked progress. When a teacher has been tried and found satisfactory, retain her for as many terms as possible, and a steady advance will be made.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 55. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 3.

DISTRICT No. 3. Money, \$169.00.

WILLIAM H. UNDERHILL, Prudential Committee.

Three terms: spring, 10 weeks; fall, 12 weeks; winter, 7 weeks. Teachers, Miss Clara E. Whidden of Stratham, N. H., spring; Miss Nellie B. Sleeper of Chester, fall and winter.

Miss W. passed a very satisfactory examination, but from a lack of discipline the results of the term were not such as could have been desired. Miss S. took charge of the school with some misgivings on her own part and also on the part of many in the district, due partly to her inexperience and partly to the peculiar condition of the school, — circumstances which make her decided success the more conspicuous. A good degree of interest in their studies, respect for their teacher, and a general wish to make the school a success, were particularly noticeable among the pupils.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 39. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 3.

DISTRICT No. 4. Money, \$65.94.

D. S. WEST, Prudential Committee.

Two terms: spring, 5 weeks; fall, 8 weeks. Teachers, Miss Nellie B. Sleeper of Chester, spring; Miss Emma M. Moore of Chester, fall.

This was Miss Sleeper's first attempt at teaching, and a

good record was made. Miss Moore's success will be greater in proportion as she enters into the spirit of her work. Parents must give teachers their co-operation in order to get the full benefit of their labor.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 18. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 3.

DISTRICT No. 5. Money, \$55.66.

MARTIN BUTTERFIELD, Prudential Committee.

Two terms: spring, 8 weeks; fall, 7 weeks. Teacher, Miss Lillie R. Dolber of Candia, N. H.

During the visits of the committee the general appearance of the school was good. The teachers here and in all the districts should labor assiduously to impress upon their scholars the importance of giving a practical application to the rules and formulas found in the text-books. Recitations should not be given by any prescribed rule or custom, and those instructors who are the most independent of text-books turn out the best scholars. A very general satisfaction was expressed by the district.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 1. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 0.

DISTRICT No. 6. Money, \$56.53.

GEORGE CURRIER, Prudential Committee.

Two terms: spring, 6 weeks; fall, 6½ weeks. Teacher, Miss Mary A. Moulton of Portsmouth, N. H.

The degree of success attained by Miss M. came rather unexpectedly, and, with a few minor exceptions, the year's work has been fruitful. This appears to be an easy school to manage, and, even with the limited number of weeks of school, it should be among our best.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 10.

DISTRICT No. 7. Money, \$81.10.

LUTHER C. STEVENS, Prudential Committee.

Two terms : spring, 8 weeks ; fall, 8 weeks. Teacher, Miss Frances Noyes of Atkinson, N. H.

It was hoped by the committee that the former teacher, Miss Merrill, would be engaged for the past year. In selecting Miss N. a good choice was made, but the general tone of the school was hardly up to its capacity. A careful observance of the minor details of school discipline will make future efforts more successful.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 37. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 3.

DISTRICT No. 8. Money, \$86.22.

CHARLES TRUE, Prudential Committee.

Two terms : spring, 8 weeks ; fall, 10 weeks. Teacher, Miss Susie H. Gordon of Danville, N. H.

In a quiet and unassuming manner Miss G. controls and directs. In few districts does the teacher have so general a support of the parents as here, which lightens the labor, and makes the efforts of the teacher most efficient.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 47. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 0.

DISTRICT No. 9. Money, \$60.75.

LEWIS SANBORN, Prudential Committee.

Two terms : spring, 7 weeks ; fall, 10 weeks. Teacher, Miss Myra Gillingham of Chester.

Miss G. has made a decided improvement in her discipline and general manner of conducting a school, as manifest in the two terms' work in this district. A continued careful study of the science of teaching will make her efforts still more successful. The few who attend this

school are bright, interesting, promising youth, who, if allowed the privilege, will become excellent scholars.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 7. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 0.

DISTRICT No. 10. Money, \$40.02.

GEORGE CAMMETT, Prudential Committee.

Two terms: spring, 6 weeks; fall, 6 weeks. Teacher, Mrs. J. A. Hooke.

It is always a pleasure to visit the school in District No. 10, which is a little different from any in town. Mrs. H. has had this school under her care for 20 or more consecutive terms, and each new committee re-engages her,—proof positive that they cannot do better.

Number of visits by parents and citizens, 21. Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school, 0.

SUMMARY.

Eight districts have employed the same teacher through the year; two have each had two teachers.

Whole number of weeks of schooling	173
Total amount of money	\$1,047 69
Average wages of teachers per week	5 20
Highest wages of teacher per week	8 00
Lowest wages of teacher per week	3 50
School-rooms without maps	4
School-rooms without globes	10
Number of visits by parents and citizens	307
Number of boys attending two weeks or more	113
Number of girls attending two weeks or more	127
Number of children between 5 and 15 not attending any school	12

The pupils of District No. 1 have given two interesting exhibitions during the past year, the proceeds of which have placed a fine clock and a "Worcester's Unabridged"

in the school-room ; two articles that are needed, and that should be in every school-room. Also, District No. 3 gave an entertainment at their school-room at the close of the last term, which was successful as an exhibition, and financially. It would be a good plan if every school in town would give a public exhibition every year. A great hindrance to the accomplishment of the maximum amount of good, by teachers, is the want of important school apparatus, such as globes, maps, mathematical blocks, etc., articles absolutely necessary for a full and intelligent explanation of questions arising continually in recitation. Every committee should take advantage of the law recently passed allowing a certain per cent of the school money to be expended in purchasing such articles for the school-room as may be deemed necessary or helpful. A teacher very often is obliged to task her descriptive powers to the extreme to render plain some question which with the aid of suitable articles is easily, intelligibly, and lastingly impressed upon the mind.

In several schools singing has been introduced, a very agreeable and profitable exercise, which will no doubt become by law, before many years, a part of the regular school work. Already, singing is obligatory in all the grades of primary schools in most of our largest cities, and the benefits derived must be apparent to everyone. The first duty of a district consists in electing as prudential committee the very best man in the district ; all personal animosities and prejudices should be made secondary to the welfare of the public school.

The general character of our schools compares favorably with those of other country towns. During the year Appleton's series of readers have been introduced in place of Monroe's, which have been in use for a long time and have done good service. This has given a stimulus to this branch, and it is quite astonishing to notice the improvement made in so short a time. There is an old-fashioned

idea to which many of our fathers and mothers tenaciously cling, and which is very often manifest in schools, that *the* thing and only thing which should be made of any account in our schools, is arithmetic; with all your gettings get arithmetic, is their motto. We have found several cases where it was with great reluctance children engaged in the study of grammar and geography, for the very reason parents had pronounced them unnecessary. This is a sad mistake which we hope time will remedy. Grammar does not receive the attention it ought, owing, in many cases, we fear, to a want of knowledge by the teacher. "*Readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic*" have long ceased to be considered the only branches necessary to a good education, and the "fancies" have become essential even to the most unpretentious. While our schools are not all we could desire or what perhaps they might be, we trust the future will remedy many evils and witness a steady progress.

CHESTER ACADEMY.

During the year the academy has been under the charge of Mr. J. T. Choate of Amesbury, Mass., who has taught two terms with good results. An election of a new board of nine trustees has been recently made, who at the present writing have had no meeting for organization; consequently I am unable to report what new plans may be put into operation for the future welfare of the school. It is to be hoped some plan may be found feasible by which the school may be made permanent, a regular teacher hired, and the full advantages of a high school secured to our youth. The spring term opens March 1, J. T. Choate principal.

Respectfully,

CHARLES A. WILCOMB,

Superintendent.

CHESTER, N. H., Feb. 25, 1880.

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